Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

and the effects of it are thus described, "The ordinary class of beggars fled in general upon the alarm, and retired to quieter situations in London and other municipalities, where similar measures of prudential charity have not been adopted; and as to those who apply for protection to the institution, they express very strongly and very generally their gratitude for the advantages they derive from the charity, and look forward to its continuance with earnest and eager expectation."

In the parish of Shipter Moyne, also, in the County of Gloucester, an institution founded upon the same principles is attended with like success. Vol. 3. No. 86. P. 200. We are there assured, "That the work-house for the women and children (who it appears are there employed during the day) by a most extraordinary and incredible metamorphosis is converted into a real house of industry."

If it appears to any person a matter of much difficulty to find employment for the poor, the observation must be confessed to be a true one; but let him consider that if it be difficult to those who have capital in their hands, who possess information, and know the proper use of money in commercial dealings, how much more so must it be to the poor who have no capital whatever, who are in a great measure ignorant of the modes of finding materials, and whose profits are generally wasted among the middle dealers. It is in fact, a matter of necessity, that the wealthy and better informed should exert themselves in favour of their weaker and more destitute brethren; for if they do not, one of two things must happen, either that the poor of this class must perish, or else be supported entirely by alms. As to the former it should not once be mentioned, and in the latter case they must not only be reduced to a more degraded state (as mendicity certainly is) that any we know of, but must become a much severer burthen than if such an enstitution were open to receive them.

The only objection then which can be made (if indeed it be an objection) is the difficulty of meeting with active supporters, but this we are happy to say is in a great measure removed, as many gentlemen have laudably pledged themselves to give personal aid in favour of the undertaking, and we are not without hopes that the liberality of the plan, its utility, and importance to society will procure it many and lasting friends.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HERRING.

Concluded from p. 356, No. X.

TO complete this article I shall conclude by a few words on the herring trade. It is of great antiquity. Madox records that in 1195 the little town of Dunwick was obliged to pay 80,000 herrings to the crown. In the 13th century the Zealanders carried on this trade to a great extent and to this effect in the year 1282, they obtained from the king of England, a patent for themselves and the Dutch, granting them the right of fishing on the coasts of Yarmouth. It may also be seen from a diploma of Eric III. king of Denmark, that in the 13th century herrings were an article of commerce in the Baltic. This diploma granted to the people of Hamburgh a piece of land in the island of Schonen, for their residence during the fishery, and for vending their cargoes at the fairs. In this age also may be discovered traces of the practice of saving herrings, which was undoubtedly that of smoking. In the 14th century a fair for the sale of herrings was established at Yarmouth. In 1357 Edward III. prohibited fishermen from selling their fish any where but in that city. The Dutch, who till then had purchased their herrings on the coast from the Scotch fishermen, and afterwards exported them to other countries, were obliged to send vessels to fish there; for as the fishermen were obliged to bring their cargoes to market previous to their being salted, the herrings by the delay thus occasioned, were rendered soft and unfit for exportation. According to Maizieres the herring trade was also very considerable at this time on the coast of Norway. He says that in that country upwards of three thousand men were collected during the months of September and October, whose occupation was the

herring fishery. The fishery and trade in herrings still forms one of the principal branches of national industry, by which several tons of gold is annually brought into the kingdom. Though the fir-wood which the Norwegians use for making their casks gives a taste to the fish which is not generally relished, yet the Poles esteem it highly. Some years since the Danish government ordered the casks to be made of oak; but it was soon observed that the demand lessened. The Poles remarked the want of usual flavour, and it was found necessary to revert to the fir. With the Dutch this branch of commerce is still more considerable; whence it is that M. Carleson calls the herring fishery their golden mine, because in reality this nation draws more gold and silver from it than the others from their mines. At first, as has been already observed, this nation purchased their herrings from the Scotch; but their industry and sage regulations soon rendered their herrings preferable, not only to the Scotch, but even to the Flemish, which had been celebrated for their excellence. Yet the herring trade in this nation is not now near so extensive as it hitherto has been. In 1416 the first large net was made at Hoorn, since which time the Dutch have employed larger vessels. In 1552 the city of Enkhuisen alone sent 140 vessels to the herring fishery; and in 1601, five hundred vessels sailed from the several ports of the republic for the same purpose; and if Sir Walter Raleigh is not mistaken, at times 13,000 vessels and 450,000 men were occupied in it. This, however, is undoubtedly exaggerated, or else the trade has declined very considerably since it has excited the jealousy of other nations. In 1736, the number of vessels did not amount to 250. This number has since diminished; for in 1747 the Dutch sent out but 200 vessels, and in 1773 but 169. It would have fallen still further had not the States General, in 1775, offered a bounty of 500 florins to every vessel which went to the herring fishery. Notwithstanding this decline it still continues to be a considerable branch of industry; for it is said that 20,000 men are still supported by it.

The French also annually send out about an hundred vessels from Calais, Dieppe, and the other neighbouring ports. These are not so large as the Dutch, not containing more than from twenty to twenty-five tons. They fish either on the coasts of England, or in the Channel. They also fish during Autumn on the coasts of Normandy and Picardy; but as the sailors are not in the habit of taking provisions and salt along with them, they are obliged to return as soon as they have a cargo, and it frequently happens that before they can return the fogs which favour the fishery pass away, and the best opportunity is lost. The Swedes, who hitherto purchased their herrings from other nations, have within these forty years become more attentive to the trade of this fish. In 1745 a company was established for this purpose, supported by government, by means of which their herrings, and particularly those of Gothenburg, have risen to great estimation.

In 1764, fifty cargoes of herring, which were thought equal to the Dutch, arrived from this port to Hamburgh. From the same place were exported in the year 1771, 43,959 tons of hearing; in 1772, 73,130; in 1781 and 1782, 200,000; and from twenty to twenty-two thousand tons of oil. Many load of herrings, smoked in straw, are brought into the north of Germany, from Swedish Pomerania. The Danes not only bring into Germany the herrings caught in Spring and Autumn on the northern coast of Jutland, and the isles of Ferroé, but they also send vessels to the coast of Scotland.

In 1767 a company for the herring fishery was established at Altona. Large quantities of smoked herrings are also sent from Holstein to Hamburgh and the neighbouring cities. Those called Kieler-Bucklinge are particularly prized. In 1770 a company was formed in Prussia for this fishery, and in 1776 six vessels were sent from Embden to the coast of Scotland, which returned with an hundred and thirty lasts of herrings. Since that time the number has been annually augmented; so the number now is from thirty-eight to forty-two vessels.

Herring oil is in Sweden a very im-

portant branch of commerce. At first the gills and intestines were the only parts used in this manufacture; and as this oil was in great demand, the merchant built manufactories of oil at their own expence, in most of the places where the fishery was carried on. These generally consist of eight cauldrons; four of these cauldrons were built in separate furnaces, so that the furnace being open before, afforded a separate aperture for each cauldron, and the four furnaces communicated within to a large one in the centre. To save copper they have invented a method of enlarging the cauldron with rods of pine wood, strengthened with thick bands of iron. The cauldrons are so built up that the fire touches but half the side, and the wall rises to within an ell of the upper surface of the rings, where a scaffold is placed, on which the persons stand who are employed to stir the contents of the cauldron with ladles of copper. Nine or ten tons of herrings may be boiled in one cauldron, and for this purpose from seven to nine tons of water are required: the water is conveyed by means of pumps. The herrings while boiling, are continually stirred until they are completely melted; then a little cold water is poured in, which makes the oil float, and it is afterwards taken off with brazen skimmers and put into leathern bags. When the oil has remained some hours there, and is separated from the dregs and the water, it is passed through a strainer into a large cask placed upright, which has a vent-hole about the third part of an ell from the bottom. When the oil has lain there some time, and the remaining dregs have fallen to the bottom, it is again filtered, and put into casks containing exactly sixty Swedish *cannes*.* It is then ready for exportation. It is absolutely necessary that the oil be completely freed from dregs and water, for otherwise these particles cause a bad smell in summer. The herrings are generally allowed to boil about five or six hours, and two or three hours more are requisite for it to settle before the oil can be taken off. In proportion to the fulness and freshness of the fish is the good quality and weight of the oil; when made of old herrings it soon corrupts. The more the oil is boiled the browner it becomes, and when boiled in cauldrons made entirely of copper, it is browner than in those enlarged with wood. Coal and pine wood are used for the fire.

A manufactory of four cauldrons requires from twenty-eight to thirty-two workmen. It is at the beginning of the fishery when the herrings are plenty and the price low, that the making of oil is carried on; when the herrings are dear, nothing can be gained by it. This oil is used for lamps, but not for leather, on account of its fluidity.

The mass which remains is excellent for land, for ground manured with it produces much more grass and corn than by any other kind. The farmer who resides near the coast uses it; but so great a quantity, consisting at least of some hundred thousand tons annually connot be entirely used in this manner; a great part of it is thrown into the sea.

At the commencement of the fishery, when the herring is large, a ton of them produces from five to six *cannes* and a half of oil: at the end of the fishery, when it is very poor, that is about the month of December, it produces no more than a *canne* and a half. A ton of oil contains sixty *cannes*, in the making of which from twenty to twenty-three tons of herrings are used.

* This is a measure of liquids containing somewhat more than four gallons.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IT may not be uninteresting to the readers of this magazine to see the plans attempted in the sister country to remedy the evils of their present system of poor laws—The annexed plan may serve to give a trait of the state of manners in that country, and also impress the truth of the important political and moral axioms, that an independence gained by the industry and frugality of the poor themselves contributes in an essential degree to their comforts and happiness, while a dependence on the contributions of others, by producing idleness necessarily leads to profligacy and immorality.